

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DACCA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 265069

NODIS

E.O. 11652:XGDS-3

TAGS:PFOR, BG, IN, US

SUBJECT: BDG REQUESTS FOR USG SUPPORT

REF: DACCA 5401

FOR BOSTER FROM THE SECRETARY

1. YOU HAVE RELAYED TO THE DEPARTMENT REQUESTS FROM SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT FOR USG SUPPORT IN CHECKING POSSIBLE INDIAN INTERVENTION. YOU SHOULD CONTACT APPROPRIATE BDG REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) BDG REQUESTS FOR OUR SUPPORT DURING THIS UNSETTLED PERIOD HAVE RECEIVED URGENT AND CAREFUL ATTENTION IN WASHINGTON. WE SUPPORT THE INDEPENDENCE OF BANGLADESH AND WANT TO CARRY ON THE CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WE

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HAVE HAD WITH PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS IN DACCA. WE WILL

CONTINUE TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO BANGLADESH'S NEEDS AND CONCERNS.

(B) IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WE FACE THE PRACTICAL QUESTION OF HOW BEST TO PROCEED IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE WHAT BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS DESIRE--TO STABILIZE THE PRESENT SITUATION AND AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION.

(C) WE DO NOT THINK THAT A PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM US AT THIS TIME WOULD BE HELPFUL, BUT THE SECRETARY HAS SENT A PRIVATE MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN;

- WE ARE STRESSING TO THE INDIANS OUR VIEW THAT RECENT EVENTS IN DACCA ARE AN INTERNAL BANGLADESH AFFAIR WHICH SHOULD NOT INVOLVE OUTSIDE POWERS OR IMPACT ADVERSELY ON PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION.

(D) WE ALSO THINK THAT EXTERNAL PRESSURE ON THE GOI, PARTICULARLY IF IT APPEARED TO BE ORGANIZED BY THE USG (AS SUGGESTED BY THE BDG), WOULD ONLY SERVE TO CONFIRM DELHI'S SUSPICIONS AND MIGHT WELL INCREASE THE POSSIBILITY OF INDIAN INTERVENTION. HOWEVER, IN LINE WITH BDG REQUESTS TO US WE ARE KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE GOP TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND TO MAKE CLEAR TO THEM OUR SUPPORT FOR THE RESTORATION OF STABILITY IN BANGLADESH FREE FROM OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.

(E) IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONCERN EXPRESSED IN YESTERDAY'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON BANGLADESH, WE URGE THE BDG TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO REASSURE THE GOI BOTH VERBALLY AND BY ITS ACTIONS THAT IT INTENDS TO PURSUE GOOD RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND TO LIVE UP TO ITS OBLIGATIONS TO PROTECT THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY AND THE HINDU MINORITY. IN OUR JUDGMENT, THIS IS THE BEST WAY FOR THE NEW REGIME TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS IN NEW DELHI TO REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF INDIAN INTERVENTION. KISSINGER

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